



SIGNAL FIRE


Towards Reconciliation

Rethinking natural science research with respect, recognition, understanding and collaboration.

In 2020, a group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars wrote a paper outlining 10 calls to action for natural scientists. The paper was founded in frustration, friendship and hope. The calls were developed to facilitate reconciliation, rebalance relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians, to tell this part of Canadian history and to create a path forward based on mutual respect.

The reality is, you don't do anything in this life without somebody else's assistance, somebody else's ability, somebody else's know-how.... Something that you may put words to is never founded only on your understanding. It's based on a multitude of people that have been walking ahead of you.

GÙDIA (MARY JANE) JOHNSON
LHU'ÀÀN MÂN KU DAÑ
KLUANE FIRST NATION ELDER



The Documentary

Signal Fire is a 30-minute educational documentary adapted from the 10 Calls to Action research paper. The film features interviews with the authors and their colleagues who inspire greater understanding, respect and reciprocity between scientists and Indigenous communities. Like a signal fire, it is a call to action — and also a beacon to show the way.

[PLAY THE TRAILER](#) | [WATCH THE FILM](#) | [SCREENING INQUIRIES](#)

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Reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in the country.

In order for that to happen, there has to be awareness of the past, acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF CANADA



10 CALLS TO ACTION TO NATURAL SCIENTISTS WORKING IN CANADA

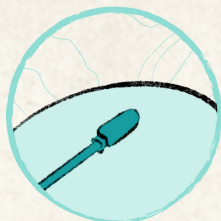
Scientists share in Canadians' collective responsibility to feed the fires of reconciliation — to shift the power balance and meet the needs of Indigenous peoples and communities. The 10 calls to action outlined in the research paper translate the recommendations of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission into concrete actions and approaches scientists can take on an institutional and individual level.



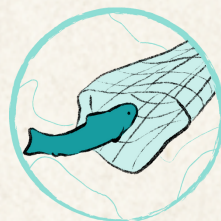
1 | UNDERSTAND SOCIO-POLITICAL LANDSCAPES



2 | COLLABORATE ON COMMON GROUND



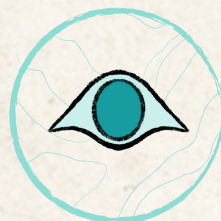
3 | SHARE + COPRODUCE KNOWLEDGE



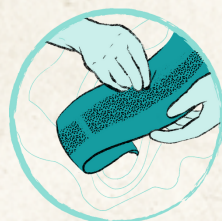
4 | RESPECT OUR ELDERERS + RESPECT ANIMALS



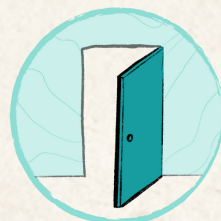
5 | CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE



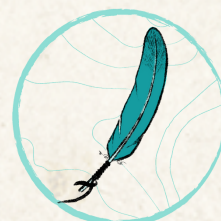
6 | UPLIFT INDIGENOUS PLACE NAMES



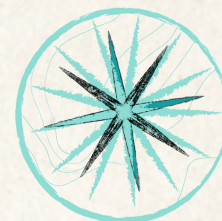
7 | LEARN ABOUT INDIGENOUS RIGHTS + HISTORY



8 | FUNDERS: TRANSFORM APPROACHES



9 | JOURNALS: INCLUDE INDIGENOUS REVIEW + PERMISSION



10 | INSITUTIONS + INDIVIDUALS: RECONCILE YOUR VISION

BY CARMEN WONG, KATE BALLEGOOYEN, LAWRENCE IGNACE, GÜDIA (MARY JANE) JOHNSON AND HEIDI SWANSON, (FACETS | 2020 | 5: 769-783.)

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